

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 15, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-20 were rejected. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10-14, 17, 18 and 20 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objections

Claim 7 was objected to for informalities, specifically, Examiner suggested to change "signals" in line 3 to --signal--. Applicants have amended Claim 7 according to Examiner's recommendation to overcome this objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-20 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants amend Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10-14, 17, 18 and 20 to overcome these rejections and respectfully request full allowance of these Claims as amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 18 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants' cited prior art Figure 2. Claims 1, 11, 14, 18, and 20 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants' cited prior art Figure 3. Claims 1-2 and 18 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,656,969 issued to Francesco Pulvirenti et al. ("Pulvirenti et al."). Claims 1-2, 4, 5, 7, and 18-19 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,625,516 issued to Yukihide Niimi et al. ("Niimi et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not anticipate Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14, 18 and 20. Applicants have, however, amended the claims to more distinctly claim embodiments of the present invention and submit said claims are patentably distinct over the cited art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 3, 6, 8-10, 12-13, and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 2 and allowable Claim 3. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claim 1 and Claims 4-17 dependent on Claim 1. Applicants have added new Claim 21 which is allowable Claim 10 rewritten in independent form including the limitations of base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 2. Applicants submit Claim 21 is in condition for allowance and request favorable action. Applicants have also added new allowable Claim 22 which incorporates the limitations of allowable Claim 16, base Claim 1, and intervening Claim 14. Applicants respectfully submit Claim 22 is in condition for allowance and request favorable action.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1, 4-20 as amended, and allowance of allowable Claims 21 and 22.

Applicants enclose a fee transmittal and a check in the amount of \$200 to cover the fee for one additional independent claim and believe there are no other fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

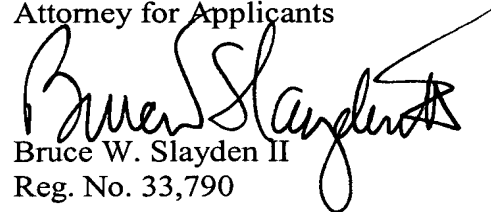
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PATENT APPLICATION
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If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2606.

Respectfully submitted,
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